

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are now in the application. Claims 1-12 and 15-25 have been allowed. Claim 13 has been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bruce A. Cole (USPN 5,854,901).

Claims 13 and 14 are data structure claims directed to the structure of a file handle where the same file may be using different filenames. The data structure comprises a namespace field for the filename and a unique file identifier that remains the same for the file irrespective of its filename.

The Cole reference teaches assigning a unique internet protocol address for computers, routers, or other devices attached to the internet network. Cole is only making sure each device has a unique address on the network.

Amended claim 13 is directed to a file-handle data structure representing a file having different filenames for the same file. The data structure has at least a namespace field for the filename which for the same file have different filenames and a file identifier for the same file which is unique i.e. independent of the different filenames.

Cole does not describe a file handle data structure. Cole only describes assigning internet protocol addresses to devices. Cole does not describe a file having different filenames. Cole does not describe a file identifier for the same file that is unique and independent of the filename.

For the above reasons, claim 13 is not anticipated by the Cole reference and should be allowed. Claim 14 depends on claim 13 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons as discussed above for claim 13.

As all the claims now in the application are in condition for allowance, Applicants request the application be allowed and pass to issue as soon as possible.

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

12/24/03

27488

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



Timothy B. Schill, Reg. No. 42,137
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
303.357.1633